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M DIRECTOR BI (288-NY-268557)

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CITE: //1312//

PASS: CITA SUPERVISORS: W-SSA [REDACTED] AT- SSA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NY-SSA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] EUROPEAN HACKER GROUP PARTICIPATED

IN ELECTRONIC ATTACK ON PENTAGON INTERNET WEBSITE (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT. NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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SOURCE: (U) INTERNET NEWS GROUPS.

[REDACTED]

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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SUMMARY: ~~(C)~~ ON 09 SEPTEMBER 1998, AN ITALIAN HACKER GROUP PARTICIPATED IN SIMULTANEOUS ELECTRONIC ATTACKS (NETSTRIKES) ON INTERNET WEBSITES IN MEXICO, GERMANY, AND THE UNITED STATES. ITALIAN HACKER GROUP SUPPORTED THE ELECTRONIC ATTACK AND PRESENTED THE STATUS OF THE ATTACK AS IT WAS HAPPENING.

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TEXT:

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1. ~~(C)~~ THE GROUP, THE ELECTRONIC DISTURBANCE THEATER (EDT), ANNOUNCED AN INTERNET-BASED ELECTRONIC ATTACK (A "NETSTRIKE") ON INTERNET WEBSITES IN THE UNITED STATES, GERMANY, AND MEXICO ON 05 SEPTEMBER 1998. THE NETSTRIKE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS POSTED TO A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT INTERNET NEWS GROUPS, INCLUDING AN ITALIAN HACKER INTERNET NEWS GROUP. THE ACTION CALLED FOR BY THE EDT WAS OF "MULTIPLE ACTS OF ELECTRONIC CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE" IN SUPPORT OF "THE ZAPATISTAS IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO, AND WITH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE STRUGGLING AGAINST THE GLOBAL NEOLIBERAL ECONOMY". THE NETSTRIKE WAS PLANNED FOR 09 SEPTEMBER AND WAS AIMED AT THE FOLLOWING COMPUTER SYSTEMS: [REDACTED]

b3 10 USC §130c

2. ~~(X)~~ THE EDT WAS PLANNING ON PURSUING THE NETSTRIKE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ARS ELECTRONICA ESTIVAL ON INFORMATION WARARE (INOWAR) HELD IN LINZ, AUSTRIA, ROM 07 - 12 SEPTEMBER. THE EDT BULLETIN O 05 SEPTEMBER CALLED ON SYMPATHETIC COMPUTER USERS TO CONNECT THEIR INTERNET WEB BROWSERS TO THE EDT'S LOODNET SOTWARE LOCATED ON THEIR HOMEPAGE AT [HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/ARDOM/ZAFSTACTICAL/JAVASCRP.HTM](http://www.thing.net/ardom/zafstactical/javascrip.htm) AND [HTTP://WWW.NYU.EDU/PROJECTS/\[redacted\]ECD.HTML](http://www.nyu.edu/projects/[redacted]ecd.html). THE EDT PLANNED TO USE THEIR LOODNET SOTWARE AND THE COMPUTERS O SYMPATHETIC COMPUTER USERS TO ELECTIVELY BLOCK ACCESS TO THESE THREE SITES BY LOODING THE SITES WITH MORE "HITS" (ATTEMPTED INTERNET CONNECTIONS) THAN THE TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEMS COULD EECTIVELY NEGOTIATE, CAUSING THE TARGETED COMPUTER NETWORK TO EECTIVELY DROP O-LINE.

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3. ~~(X)~~ THE ITALIAN HACKER INTERNET NEWS GROUP POSTINGS CONCERNING THE EDT AND THE NETSTRIKE WERE POSTED BY THE ITALIAN HACKER WITH THE INTERNET CALL-SIGN "ERRY BYTE". EERRY BYTE IS A MEMBER O THE ITALIAN HACKER GROUP "STRAND NETWORK" AND ITS SUBSET "POST_AXION MUTANTE". THE STRAND

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NETWORK IS A PART O A LARGER CONSORTIUM O ITALIAN SOCIAL
ACTIVIST AND HACKER GROUPS KNOWN AS THE "EUROPEAN COUNTER
NETWORK" (ECN). EERRY BYTE TRANSLATED THE ORIGINAL EDT
BULLETIN INTO ITALIAN AND POSTED IT TO THE ITALIAN HACKER
INTERNET NEWS GROUP. IN HIS ITALIAN TRANSLATION O THE EDT
BULLETIN, EERRY BYTE ALSO PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS
OR ACILITATING THE NETSTRIKE. EERRY BYTE RECOMMENDED THAT
INTERESTED COMPUTER USERS SHOULD PERORM THE OLLOWING:
USERS SHOULD CONTINUALLY "RELOAD" THE DESIGNATED LINK (WHICH
WOULD CONTINUALLY QUERY THE TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEM OR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION); OPEN AS MANY INTERNET BROWSERS AND
WINDOWS AS POSSIBLE, QUERYING THE DESIGNATED TARGETED
COMPUTER SYSTEMS IN EACH O THE WINDOWS; SET THE MEMORY O
THE INTERNET BROWSER'S CACHE TO ZERO; DO NOT START OR ALLOW
ANY PROXIES OR THE INTERNET BROWSER; AND DISSEMINATE
INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLANNED NETSTRIKE TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS
POSSIBLE. EERRY BYTE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE INTERNET ADDRESS O
A SITE WHICH WOULD ACILITATE THE NETSTRIKE BY CONTROLLING
THE SYMPATHETIC USER'S COMPUTER. THE INTERNET SITE IS
HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/^RDOM/ZAPSTACTICAL/ZAPS.HTML. EERRY
BYTE ALSO PROVIDED THE RELEVANT IP ADDRESSES OR EACH O THE

TARGETED SITES. ERRY BYTE CONCLUDED BY ADDING THAT THE PROGRESS/SUCCESS O THE NETSTRIKE CAN BE OLOWED BY SIMPLY TRYING TO "PING" OR PERFORM A TRACE ROUTE (TRACERT) ON THE TARGETED SERVERS. (FIELD COMMENT: LONGER "PING" TIMES WOULD CORRESPOND TO MORE ACTIVITY ON THE TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEM. THE ULTIMATE GOAL O THE EDT ORGANIZERS IS THAT THE TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEM WOULD BE UNREACHABLE.)

4. ~~(C)~~ PROGRESS O THE EDT-ORGANIZED NETSTRIKE AGAINST THE TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEMS WAS REPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS POSTINGS MADE BY ERRY BYTE ON 09 SEPTEMBER. AT 1216L (ALL TIMES EUROPEAN STANDARD TIME) ON 09 SEPTEMBER, ERRY BYTE POSTED A MESSAGE TO THE HACKMEETING INTERNET NEWS GROUP STATING THAT THE WEBSITE AT

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HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/^RDOM/ZAPSTACTICAL /ZAPS.HTML WAS NOT RESPONDING AS O 1200L AND THAT SYMPATHETIC USERS SHOULD TRY TO ACCESS THE TARGETED WEB SITES DIRECTLY. AT 1216L, ERRY BYTE ALSO STATED THAT ALL THREE O THE TARGETED WEB SITES ARE APPARENTLY INDING IT MORE DIICULT TO OPERATE AND THE WEB SITE O THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT WAS ESPECIALLY SLOW IN RESPONDING. ERRY BYTE

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CONCLUDED HIS MESSAGE BY STATING THAT NONE O THE TARGETED WEBSITES ARE RESPONDING TO PING COMMANDS DIRECTED AT THEM.

5. ~~CC~~ AT 1243L ON 09 SEPTEMBER, ERYR BYTE PROVIDED AN

UPDATE ON THE STATUS O THE NETSTRIKE AND STATED THAT

HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/ARCOM/ZAPSTACTICAL/ZAPS.HTML WAS ON-

LINE AGAIN. ERYR BYTE ALSO ADDED AT THIS TIME THAT THE

TARGETED WEB SITES WERE NOW RESPONDING TO PING COMMANDS. BUT

THAT THE RESPONSE TIMES WERE MUCH SLOWER THAN NORMAL. AT

1617 ON 09 SEPTEMBER, ERYR BYTE PROVIDED A THIRD UPDATE ON

THE STATUS O THE NETSTRIKE AND STATED THAT THE WHILE THE

TARGETED SITES WERE STILL ACCESSIBLE WITHOUT TOO MUCH

DIICULTY, THEY WERE RESPONDING MORE SLOWLY.

6. ~~CC~~ IN A RELATED POSTING, ANOTHER ECR MEMBER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] POSTED A MESSAGE TO THE ITALIAN HACKER INTERNET

NEWS GROUP AT 1850L ON 09 SEPTEMBER STATING THAT A MEMBER O

THE EDT, [REDACTED] HAD RECEIVED A THREATENING

TELEPHONE CALL. [REDACTED] ORWARDED A EDT BULLETIN STATING THAT

[REDACTED] HAD RECEIVED A THREATENING PHONE CALL ON 09

SEPTEMBER AT 0732L IN HIS HOTEL ROOM IN LINZ, AUSTRIA. THE

BULLETIN REPORTED THAT A UNKNOWN PERSON, PRESUMED TO BE

MEXICAN, CALLED [REDACTED] AT HIS HOTEL ROOM. ROOM NUMBER

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640 AT THE STEINBERGER MAXX HOTEL IN LINZ, AUSTRIA.

ACCORDING TO THE EDT BULLETIN, [REDACTED] WAS THREATENED
NOT TO GIVE HIS PRESENTATION ABOUT THE NETSTRIKE AT THE ARS
ELECTRONICA INOWAR FESTIVAL (NI). [REDACTED] NEWSGROUP
POSTING ALSO PROVIDES ADDITIONAL EDT GUIDANCE OR
SYMPATHETIC COMPUTER USERS ON HOW TO CONFIGURE THEIR
INTERNET BROWSERS IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE POTENTIAL OF THE
EDT NETLOOT SOFTWARE: 1) DISABLE JAVA SCRIPT, 2) SET THE
INTERNET BROWSER PROXIES TO "DIRECT COMMUNICATION TO
INTERNET", 3) SET INTERNET BROWSER CACHES TO "EVERY TIME",
AND 4) LEAVE INTERNET BROWSER CONNECTED TO LOODNET DURING
THE 24 HOUR NETSTRIKE.

7. (X) THE EDT BULLETIN ALSO OUTLINED PROPOSED FUTURE
NETSTRIKE ACTIVITY. ACCORDING TO THE BULLETIN, EDT PLANS TO (U)
PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE LOODNET ACTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH
MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY ON 16 SEPTEMBER, DIA DE LA RAZA ON
12 OCTOBER, AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AT THE SCHOOL OF THE
AMERICAS ON 22 NOVEMBER. THE EDT BULLETIN EDT ACTIVITY
PLANNED AGAINST THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ON 04
OCTOBER AND 05 OCTOBER (NI).

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8. ~~(C)~~ MEMBERS OF THE ECN HAVE SUPPORTED A NUMBER OF
DIFFERENT SOCIAL CAUSES IN THE PAST. EERRY BYTE CLAIMS THAT
THE CONCEPT OF A NETSTRIKE WAS CONCEIVED BY THE ITALIAN
GROUP STRANO NETWORK IN JANUARY 1998 TO SUPPORT THE CHIAPAS
MOVEMENT IN MEXICO. EERRY BYTE FURTHER STATED THAT THE
JANUARY 1998 NETSTRIKE WAS SUCCESSFULLY TARGETED AGAINST 2-3
MEXICAN INTERNET WEB SITES. IN AN EDT BULLETIN, EDT STATED
THAT THEY HAVE BEEN USING ITS LOODNET SOFTWARE SINCE APRIL
1998 TO "ENGAGE IN VIRTUAL SIT-INS ON THE WEB SITES OF THE
MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE CLINTON WHITE HOUSE".

9. ~~(C)~~ ON 26 SEPTEMBER, EDT MEMBER [REDACTED] POSTED A
MESSAGE TO AN INTERNET NEWS GROUP THAT HE HAD BEEN ORDED TO
REMOVE THE EDT WEBSITE FROM THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S (NYU)
WEB SERVER. [REDACTED] STATED THAT THE MOVE WAS REQUIRED
FOLLOWING AN EMAIL FROM THE DEENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS
AGENCY (DISA) AUTOMATED SYSTEM SECURITY INCIDENT SUPPORT
TEAM (ASSIST) TO THE NYU COMPUTER SECURITY MANAGER.

[REDACTED] ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEW WEB SITE ADDRESS FOR THE EDT
AND ITS LOODNET PROJECT IS LOCATED AT
HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/~RDOM/ECN/ECN.HTML.

COMMENTS: (FIELD COMMENTS) 1. ~~(C)~~ IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT

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THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN NETSTRIKES AGAINST DOD SITES AS
THESE SOCIAL ACTIVISTS/HACKER GROUPS SUPPORT MORE CAUSES
WHICH THEY PERCEIVE THE DOD TO BE INIMICAL TO..

WARNING: (U) REPORT IS CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.

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